

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A teleconferencing system comprising a conference bridge (100) having a multichannel connection (5) to each of a plurality of terminal equipments, and at least one terminal equipment (10) having means (15) to separately process each channel to provide a plurality of outputs, each output representing one of the other terminal equipments.
- 10 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the terminal equipment (10) has spatialisation means (15), to combine the outputs representing each terminal to provide a spatialised output in which each terminal is represented by a virtual sound source.
- 15 3. A system according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the conference bridge (100) comprises a concentrator (230), having means to identify the currently active input channels (3, 21, 31), and to transmit only those active channels over the multichannel connection (5), together with control information (4) identifying the transmitted channels.
- 20 *claim 1*
4. A system according to ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the channel representing a given terminal is excluded from the output provided to that terminal.
- 25 5. A system according to claim 4, comprising means (16) in the terminal equipment for excluding the said channel from the processing.
- 30 6. A system according to claim 4, comprising means for excluding the said channel from the multichannel transmission from the bridge (100) to the respective terminal (10).
- claim 1*
7. A system according to ~~any preceding claim~~, provided with selection means whereby the use of an individual terminal can select which channel, or channels, of the plurality of channels are to be output by the user terminal.

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claim 1

8. A system according to ~~any preceding claim~~, the terminal equipment (10) having echo cancellation means (16) comprising means for detecting correlations between the output signal from the terminal equipment and input signals carried on individual input channels to the terminal equipment, the input signals being
5 representative of other terminals, such correlations being indicative of acoustic feedback at the terminal equipment, and means for cancelling such feedback signals in the output signal.
9. A system according to claim 8, wherein the terminal equipment (10)
10 comprises, for each channel of the output signal, a plurality of adaptive filters, each adaptive filter being arranged to model the echo path between a respective input channel and the respective output channel, and for each output channel there being provided a combiner for adding the outputs of the respective plurality of
15 adaptive filters to generate an echo cancellation signal for the respective output channel.
10. A method of providing teleconferencing services to a plurality of terminal equipments, in which a multichannel connection is provided from a conference bridge (100) to each terminal equipment (10), in which at least one terminal
20 equipment processes each channel separately to provide a plurality of outputs, such output each representing a respective one of the other terminals.
11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the outputs are processed to generate a spatialised output in which each cooperating terminal is represented by
25 a virtual sound source.
12. A method according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the conference bridge (100) identifies the currently active input channels and transmits only those active channels over the multichannel connection, together with control information
30 identifying the transmitted channels.
13. A method according to claim 10, ~~11, 12~~ wherein the channel representing a given terminal is excluded from the output provided to that terminal.

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claim 10

A 14. A method according to ~~any of claims 10 to 13~~, in which correlations are detected between the output signal from a given terminal equipment and input signals carried on individual input channels to the terminal equipment, the input signals being representative of other terminals, such correlations being indicative of
5 acoustic feedback at the terminal equipment, and cancelling such feedback signals in the output signal.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein, for each channel of the output signal, an adaptive filter models the echo path between a respective input channel
10 and the respective output channel, and for each output channel the outputs of the respective plurality of adaptive filters are added to generate an echo cancellation signal for the respective output channel.

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